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# Accidental Horticulturist

**Debbie Hamrick**

# History

- **Dad: Textile mill family, His parents from subsistence Foothills farms in WNC**
- **Mother: Father farmed tobacco**
- **Dad: Navy Mom: Teacher**
- **Childhood: Victory Gardenesque /Grandparents**
- **Mother liked “flowers”**
- **Children always had our own flower bed**
- **Father retired to “drive a tractor” and golf**
- **College: Forestry, switched quickly to Horticulture**
- **Double Major: Ag Economics**
- **Series of College Jobs/Summer internships in Horticulture/Ag Business (including Monsanto, Northrup King Seed Co.)**





# Skills

- Public Speaking
- Networking
- Facilitation
- Organization/Planning
- Ideation
- Creativity
- Running meetings
- Budgeting/Excel
- Quick to “get it” and use that in a situation
- Natural Consultant



# Opportunities to improve

- **ENTJ**
- **Analytic/Strategic/Importance/  
Learning/Ideaphoria**
- **Politics**
- **Empathetic, but not  
necessarily PC**
- **Focus on the leading side of  
bell curve**
- **Rules**
- **Regulations**
- **Reading legislation**
- **Memory for details is poor**
- **Collaborative/Consultative**





# Career: Ball Publishing

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| Jennifer Duffield White  
A new paradigm in water management emerges



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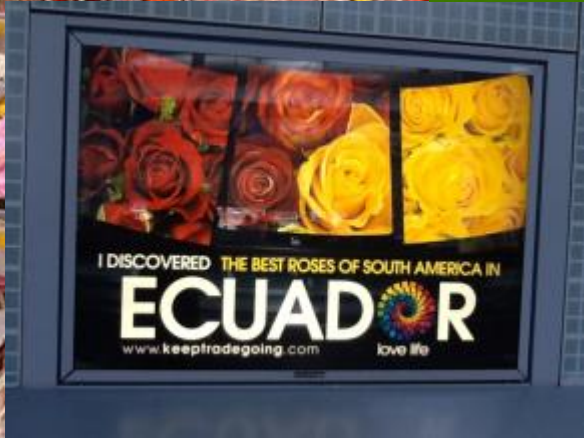
Cover Story

My, How They've Changed

| Chris Baytes  
English garden centers have long



IPM ESSEN - THE WORLD'S LEADING TRADE FAIR FOR HORTICULTURE





# Career: NC Farm Bureau



# Mentors(Mentoring)

- **Vic Ball Rule of 2**
- **Monty Wright Business Dinners**
- **Ed Gaines (husband) Finishing School**
- **Ad Hoc mentors**
- **Ad Hoc mentoring**
- **The process is very instructional**





# Realizations

- **The world is run by the people who show up.**
- **People gravitate toward what they already know and feel comfortable with.**
- **All the world's problems can be solved through listening and contemplating the issue on your own and with others.**
- **Most people in government are there (at least in the beginning) because they want to do the right thing.**
- **People trump Money (Larry Wooten).**



# My Real Job

- **Making it safe...**
- **For ideas, information...**
- **Communicating what's happening in a way that allows others to hear it and take action.**





# The Toolkit

